

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated June 26, 2003, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on September 26, 2003. Claims 38-59 have been added, and claims 25-34 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1-24 and 35-59 remain pending after entry of this response. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed herein.

Claims 1-5, 8-10, 12-15, 18-28, and 31-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Dinsdale*, U.S. Patent No. 4,843,945. The Examiner states *Dinsdale* discloses all the limitations of claims 1, 25, and 35, including a cantilever structure attached to a tong, a piston and cylinder assembly, a mounting assembly, and the tong movably attached.

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. *Dinsdale* discloses an apparatus for making and breaking threaded well pipe connections. The apparatus includes a stationary support mountable on a rig floor and positioning arms mounted on the stationary support. The positioning arms selectively support and position a movable frame which carries power tongs for clamping pipes. As seen in the top views of the Figures 4 and 6, a pair of positioning arms (14, 15) is used to position the power tongs. *Dinsdale* does not disclose a single boom-like structure for positioning a tong. Further, *Dinsdale* discloses pivoting the arms about a common axis, in another word, in one plane, as shown in Figures 1, 3, and 5. *Dinsdale* does not teach, show, or suggest an apparatus for positioning a tong, comprising a single cantilevered extendable structure, the tong attached to one end of the extendable structure, as recited in claim 1. Additionally, *Dinsdale* does not teach, show, or suggest an apparatus for positioning a tong comprising a single cantilevered extendable structure, the extendable structure having a variable length and the tong attached to one end of the extendable structure, as recited in claim 35. Further, *Dinsdale* does not teach, show, or suggest the apparatus comprising a single extendable boom, the tong attached to one end of the extendable boom, as recited in new claim 38. Further still, *Dinsdale* does not teach, show, or suggest the apparatus comprising a single extendable beam, the extendable


beam having a variable length and the tong attached to one end of the extendable beam, as recited in new claim 50. Further, *Dinsdale* does not teach, show, or suggest a method of positioning a tong comprising providing a single extendable beam having a variable length and attaching the tong to a first end of the extendable beam, as recited in new claim 58. Therefore, Applicant believes the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests allowance of the same.

Claims 6, 7, 16, 17, 29, and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Dinsdale* alone.

Claims 6, 7, 16, and 17 depend from claim 1, and claims 29 and 30 depend from claim 30. As discussed above, Applicant believes claims 1 and 25 are in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicant also believes these claims are in condition for allowance.

In conclusion, the reference cited by the Examiner, does not teach, show, or suggest the apparatus of the present invention. Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-24 and 35-59 are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests that the same be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,


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